(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. It was concluded that it would not be correct to grant environmental clearance until the Government of Gujarat determines the carrying capacity of the region, evolves an appropriate system of monitoring and other safeguards suggested by the experts are taken.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. As directed by the Hon'ble High Court of Gujarat, the application is being reconsidered. To help the Ministry in arriving at the correct decision, an Expert Committee under the chairmanship of Justice Y.V. Chan-drachud, former Chief Justice of India was constituted and the Committee has since submitted its report. A decision on this will be taken shortly.

Support envisaged for BIL and SSPL to meet working capital requirement

*345. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZRS be pleased to refer to the answer to part (d) of Starred Question 42 given in the Rajya Sabha on 29th May, 1998 and state:

(a) the actual support envisaged in 1998-99 to enable BIL and SSPL to meet their working capital requirements and critical capital expenditure as assured one page (7) of the aforesaid reply;

(b) whether efforts to streamline the operation of loss-making undertakings (page-9 of the reply) include replacement of primary, reformer in Durgapur unit of HFC; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the remedial measures taken by Government to improve its performance after the suspension of operation on 24th June, 1997?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) The Budget provision for the year 1998-99 for BIL and SSPL has been proposed as follows:

Rs/Crore

	Plan	Non-Plan
BIL	1.00	1.00
SSPL	1.00	1.00

(b) and (c) Due to resource constraints, it has not been possible to allocate the budgetary support required by HFC for undertaking the capital investment for renovation of critical equipments, including replacement of primary reformer top, at Durgapur Unit. The decision with regard to further capital investment for improving the performance of Durgapur Unit will be possible only in the context of the rehabilitation scheme for HFC, which is to be submitted to the Board for industrial and Financial Reconstruction.

Growth in fertilizer production

*346. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the overall growth in fertilizer production during 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 especially of urea in the public sector units;

(b) whether there has been sharp shortfall in the context of urea production in the public sector units;

(c) the action proposed to improve the quality in urea production and restructuring technology especially for fertilizer sector; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (b) During the last three years, the production of

fertilizer nutrients has registered a growth of 25%, as shown in the table below.

Production of Fertilizer Nutrients

(In Lakh Tonnes)

Year	Nitrogen	Phosphate	Total
1994-95	79.45	24.93	104.38
1995-96	87.77	25.58	113.35
1996-97	85.99	25.56	111.55
1997-98	100.86	29.75	130.61

During the same period, the production of urea in the central public sector units registered a growth of 16%, as shown in the table below:

(In Lakh Tonnes)

Year	Product Public	on of Urea in Sector Units
1994-95		51.68
1995-96		52.09
1996-97		47.30
1997-98		60.07

There was a decline of 9.2% in urea production in the central public sector units during 1996-97, as compared to 1995-96. This decline was on account of limitations in the supply of gas to Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited-Thai and of power to Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Limited and financial/movement constraints affecting the operation of National Fertilizers Limited.

(c) and (d) Fertilizer plants in the country have been-designed to produce urea conform to the standards laid down in the Fertilizer Control Order. New Fertilizer capacities arc based on the latest efficient technologies. In so far as the existing fertilizer plants arc concerned, technological upgradation by way of retrofit, revamp and modernisation, etc. is a continuing process. Fertilizer units undertake these measures depending on their technical feasibility and financial viability.

Food poisoning in railway canteen at Tughlakabad

*347. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of railway employees fell ill due to food poisoning after taking lunch at railway canteen, Tughlakabad as reported in the 'Statesman' dated 19th June, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the quality of food etc., in various railway canteens is found to be highly substandard and unhygienic; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to provide safe food in railway canteens and fix responsibility for those who were found responsible for such laxity?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) An incident of food poisoning was reported in the canteen at Railway Diesel Shed, Tughlakabad on 18.6.1998. A total of 110 number of staff were affected. They were quickly sent to various hospitals escorted by Railway Doctors. Out of the 110, 51 workers were admitted/kept under observation. Condition of others did not warrant hospitalisation and therefore they were discharged. Out of the 51 workers admitted, two were kept overnight for observation while the remaining were released after some time. These two workers were also discharged the next day. A fact finding enquiry was ordered to go into the cause of the incident. The inquiry revealed the food poisoning occurred due to falling of a lizard in 'Dal'.

(c) No, Sir. The quality of food in railway canteens is not substandard or unhygienic. It was just an isolated incident.

(d) The question docs not arise. As far as this isolated incident is concerned, three employees have been prima facie held responsible for not exercising adequate care and are being taken up under